

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for preventing unintended disconnection of a generally horizontal beam from a vertical support post, said post having an array of vertically elongated first openings overlapped by an end flange on said beam, with lugs projecting from a front face of said flange into said first openings, said beam and flange being vertically shiftable between a raised position at which said lugs are freely moveable into and out of upper portions of said first openings, and a lowered position at which said lugs are interlocked with said post in lower portions of said first openings, said locking mechanism comprising:

~~a second opening in said flange above one of said lugs;~~

a resilient plate;

connecting means on opposite sides of a mid-portion of said plate for securing said plate to a back face of said flange; and

a pin projecting from the mid-portion of said plate through ~~said~~ a second opening in said flange above one of said lugs and beyond a front face of said flange, said plate being resiliently deflectable to accommodate retraction of said pin into said second opening when said lugs are aligned with the upper portions of said first openings, and to urge said pin into the upper portion of one of said first openings when said lugs are shifted to the lower portions of said first openings.

2. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism of claim 1 wherein said connecting means comprises tabs on said plate, said tabs being received in and deformed into interlocked engagement within slots in said flange.

3. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism of claim 2 wherein said tabs are movable within said slots to accommodate deflection of said plate relative to said flange.

4. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism, in accordance with any one of claims 1-3 wherein said plate is provided with at least one peripheral deformation configured to coact with the back face of said flange in defining a pocket for receiving a tool used to resiliently deflect the plate in order to withdraw said pin into said access opening.

5. (Currently Amended) The locking mechanism in accordance with claim 4 wherein said at least one peripheral deformation is aligned laterally with said pin projection.